THE LATE JACOB SNIDER, JB., OF PHILADELPHIA.

Uruel Neglect of the British Government

(From the London Times of Oct. 27.1 Mr. Sinder will trouble the War Office no more. The poor man is dead. At the moment when the arsenals of the kingdom are ringing with the labor concentrated upon his invention the inventor has expired in penury and affiction, without ever having in penuly and similation, without ever having touched a single sixpence of remuneration or profit. As he lay dying a lump sum of 1,000, was thrown to his creditors, and the debts which he had contracted in the pursuit of his secret are lessened to that amount, but there, as far as he himself was concerned, ends all that was done by a grateful country. His solicitor now writes to apprise us that the Department was really preparing to do something at the very minute it became too late, and that if Mr. Snider could but have lived till this morning he might have heard of what was coming Unfortunately he died on Thurs

day.

The feeling created by this melancholy story is very strong, and it will not be much allayed by the defence and explanation offered on behalf of the Government. It is indeed, not the least impressive feature of the tale that, whereas a great public benefactor has died in helplessness and misery, without having received any recompense without having received any recompense for his service, the authorities who thus dealt with him should be able to represent their dealings as not only just and regular, but even most liberal and generous. In reality, we do not doubt that the War Office reality, we do not doubt that the War Office has for the last few weeks been taking up the case with unworted will, and General Peel's promise to bring it to an end before the close of the month represents, we can well believe, an amount of consideration and despatch not customary with the Departmert. But this, we repeat, does but make the case harder, for if such has been the fate of Mr. Snider when the officials were doing what they regard as their very best for him, what under ordinary conditions must be the lot of starving though successful inventors.

successful inventors.

The public went straight, as it alwas does, to the broad facts of the case. Mr. Snider's invention had been recognized as so valuable and precious that it was engaging the whole strength of our Government establishments without stint or respite. Mr. Snider himself at that very time lay upon a bed of sickness, paralyzed and prostrate, harassed by creditori, and pining in poverty and want. Could such a contrast between and want. Could such a contrast between merit and reward be justifiable in a coun-try like this? The question to which the Press gave utterance was first answered in true professional style by the Solicitor to the War Office, who almost proved that Mr. Snider was in debt to the nation instead of singer was in debt to the nation instead of the nation being in debt to him. Yet, as that notable letter probably contained the true law as well as the hard facts of the case, it is worth while to look again at its purport. When Mr. Snider asked the Government to give him some remune-ration for an invention which the Govern-ment was actually furning to such good adment was actually turning to such good advantage, he was told to separate his claim on account of the patent from his claim on account of personal services and expenditure. He did so, and, having estimated the latter demand at 2,700L, he was told that he had asked three times as much as he ought to ask, and that 1,000 was a handsome payment. On that proceeding we offered some remarks a few days ago, and so we say no more at present; but the story of the patent is, if possible, more striking still. It was, in fact, at this point that Mr. Clode might have found his loophole for escape. It was to the story of the patent is the story of the patent is at the point that Mr. Clode might have found his loophole for escape. It really was competent to him to argue that the actual or substantial value of Mr. Snider's invention must be represented in the estimate put upon the patent. A patent, as our readers are aware, has no legal force against the Government, and the question of compensation, therefore, is entertained not in the shape of contract, but by way of "bounty" just as in old days certain classes who could not be taxed were expected to enrich the Exchequer by free gifts of money. Nor did the War Office repudiate this obligation. It estimated very closely indeed the claims of the patentees in this case, and arrived in August last at the conclusions following: As soon as a good title to the patents could be shown to the satisfaction of the Law Officers of the Crown, the Department was to pay down to the possessors the sum of 5,000%. After this they were to receive one shilling per rifle for all tha not in the shape of contract, but by way of to receive one shilling per rifle for all tha rifles converted under their system above 100,000, until a second sum of 5,000% had been reached; and then, for every rifle converted over 200,000 a sum of 6d. per rifle, until a thirdsum of 5,000l. had been reached,

with which payment all remuneration for the patent was to cease and determine. Mr. Clode, the War Office Solicitor, was at the pains of explaining as well as justifying this calculation in the letter which he adthis calculation in the letter which he addressed to us. The patents covering the invention were two in number, and, as is only too usual in such cases, had been more than once sold and resold before the Department came into the field on behalf of the State. Mr. Clode, therefore, was enabled to approximate to the commercial value of the articles by observing that the best of the patents had been three times in the market, and that a moiety of it had been parted with first for a nominal consideration, then for 300L, and then for 2,000L. The last bargain was made in February, 1865. last bargain was made in February, 1865, but it did not escape Mr. Clode's acknowledgment that the marketable value of the property had been greatly enhanced by the adoption of the invention for the public service. We cannot consider, then, that a prospective payment of 15,000% by three installments, at uncertain and perhaps remote periods, was any very handsome price for a property which had been worth 4,000% as a mere speculation some time before. Mr. Clode observed that if the new arm, when tried in actual campaigning, should prove a failure, the Government would be a loser of the first installment of 5,000%. No doubt, but Government had taken time enough already in all conscience for testing the invention, and, if it felt sufficient confidence in its con-clusions to set all Woolwich and Enfield at work upon the article, it might have carried this assurance into the question of compen-

sation also.

But the moral which we desire especially to point in all this concerns the treatment of the actual inventor himself. Poor Mr. the actual inventor himself. Poor Mr. Snider only appeared at first as half proprietor in the patent, and it was this, his half share, which was disposed of for "a nominal consideration." However, he and another person together did contrive afterwards to purchase the other half share, which had come into the market, and so one fourth part of the property still vested in the person who had originally created it. Consequently, at some distant and not discernible date, after the value of the invention had been tested and established by tion had been tested and established by successful war and national triumphs, the inventor might receive the sum of 3,750l. Now, would that have been a just or worthy recompense for his services? We are sure that nobody would say so, and the insufficiency, therefore, of the former payment to Mr. Snider becomes all the more corresponding to the payment of the former payment. all the more conspicuous. It was precisely because Mr. Snider could not be remunerated by the patent that he should have been remunerated at a point where there was more scope for generosity. It does not seem to have occurred to the Department that even the aggregate sum of 16 000l -15,000l, for the invention, and 1,000l, tor the outlay, toil and personal service of the inventor—was no great amount to now for a discount toil and personal service of the inventor—was no great amount to pay for a discovery on which the relative efficiency of the British army depended for a time. Still less was it rembered that, beyond all question Mr. Snider deserved to be recompensed somehow, and speedily, and that if he was not likely to get much from the patent there

was a good opportunity of remunerating aim on the score of personal exertions. Instead of embracing this opportunity, the Department out down by two-thirds even the poor man's modest charge of 2.7004; and the end is that, by a series of transactions which are presented to us as models of libe. rality and consideration, the author of the valuable invention gets 1,0007. himself, and leaves a dim prospect of some 3,000% more to his heirs. We are not so well satisfied as the War Office with the character of the proceeding, the less so as it now appears, in pite of Mr. Clode's denial, that Mr. Snider paltry sum of one pound one shilling and

### CITY BULLETIN.

FIRE-A FAMILY NEARLY SUFFOCATED. This morning between twelve and one clock, a fire was discovered in a three-toried brick structure No. 1302 Chestnut storied brick structure No. 1302 Chestnut street. The flames originated on the first-floor which was occupied by the firm of Randall & Co., manufacturers and dealers in soaps, perfumery, cigars and fancy goods. They had an extensive stock of the finest description of goods, which were either burned or badly damaged by water. They have an insurance upon their stock to the amount of seven thousand dollars, about equally divided in the Fire Association of this city; the Ætna, of Hartford, and a New York company. Their loss will probably reach ten thousand dollars.

The second floor of the building was occupied by Mrs. E. O'Rurke as a millinery and cress-making establishment. She had a large stock of ribbons, bonnet materials and ready-made goods on hand, which were considerably damaged by water and smoke. Her loss on stock and materials will proba-Her loss on stock and materials will probably reach from one to two thousand dollars. The third floor and attic were occupied by the family of Mr. John Hartwell, as a dwelling. Mr. Hortwell's family consisted of his wife Sara Hartwell, daughters Louisiana Middleton, aged twenty-six years, Hannah Hartwell, aged eighteen years, and son Thomas Hartwell, aged ten years; also, Susan Sutler, a domestic, and Enoch Still, (colored) house servant. The latter was sleeping at the time the alarm was first given, in a small back room on the second floor. He states that he immediately fiven, in a small back room on the second floor. He states that he immediately rushed up into the apartments of the family and told them that the store was on fire; that they answered him, but did not make any move towards coming down; that the rooms were at the time filled almost to suffocation with smoke. He then made his way into

be street. A number of firemen and police officers had by this time gained access to the build-irg through an entry leading from Chesting through an entry leading from Chest-nut street. They immediately ascended to the upper floors. The various members of thefamily were found in a helpless condition having been almost suffocated by the dense smoke. Retreat by the stairway was nearly impossible, and the firemen removed the rufferers from the windows by means of ladders. The scene at this time was thrill-ing, and when all had safely landed on the sidewalk there was a universal shout of joy among the spectators. The Hartwell family, still unconscious, were removed to houses still unconscious, were removed to houses in the neighborhood, and, after some difficulty, medical aid was procured. None were so seriously affected as to be considered in a dangerous condition, and the speedy re-covery of all is expected.

PHILADELPHIA WATER WORKS .- The following is a statement of water pumped by the several works during October: Fairmount, 752,653,803 gallons; Schuylkill, 72,-242,160 gallons; Delaware, 92,484,290 gallons; Twenty-fourth Ward, 53,097,250 gallons; Germantown, 15,475,000 gallons. Total, 985,-552,003. A verage per day, 31,804,901 52,003. Average per day, 31,804,901.

STEALING AT THE FIRE.—Daniel Rodgers was arrested this morning at the fire at Thirteenth and Chestnutstreets for attempting to steal hair-brushes, perfumery, &c. Several articles were found in his possessions. ion. Rodgers was committed by Alderman

LARCENY OF CROCKBRYWARE, - This morning at six o'clock a black man named Henry Williams was arrested at Water and Walnut streets with a large bag containing crockeryware in his possession. Ald Beitler beld him in \$700 for trial on the charge of larceny.

SAD RESULT.-Charles Anderson, Jr. who was shot at the time of the outrage committed by a band of roughs at Moyacommittee by a band of roughs at Moyamensing avenue and Federal street, on the night of the closing of the extra assessments of the Second Ward, has lost the eight of his right eye.

FELL FROM A LADDER,-Yesterday, a hodcarrier, named Patrick Mullen, while ascending a ladder with a hod filled with bricks, at Richmond and Ann streets, Nineteenth Ward, fell, seriously injuring himself. He was taken to his home.

BASE BALL,-The home match between the Municipal and Spartacus Base Ball Clubs, of the Twenty-fourth Ward, was played, yesterday afternoon, on the grounds at Forty-fifth and Spruce streets, and was won by the Municipal Club, by a score of 44 to 29.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.-Dr. Henry Hoffman, residing at Tenth street and Montgomery avenue, Twentieth Ward, died this morning from inhaling chloroform. Coroner Daniels was notified to hold an inquest in the case.

FATAL FALL. - James Kelly, aged 62 years, living at No. 1336 North Second street, fell from a hay-loft in the rear of his residence, about 7 o'clock last evening, and was instantly killed.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.-The annual meeting of the Society of the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania will be held in the College Hall next Tues-day of the control of the College Hall next Tuesday afternoon.

OIL PAINTINGS .- Parties wishing to contribute to Scott's sale of Oil Paintings, on Thursday and Friday next, should have their specimens at the Gallery on or before Tuesday, 13th inst.

A Model Dining Saloon.—The Restaurant and Dining Salcons of Mr. J. W. PRICE, south-west corner of Fourth and Chestnut, may deservedly take rank among the institutions of Philadelphia. There you have served in the highest style of culinary art, all that the market affords, either in Game, Poul try, Meats, Vegetables or Pastry. Mr. PRICE's corp. of attendants are, perhaps unequaled by those of any other similar establishment in point of politicaess and attention to guests, while the cleanliness which pervades every department imparts a home-like zest to the repast. The habitues of PRICE'S DINING SALOOMS are, our word for it, the best fed men in Philadelph CALL AND SEE RITCHIE, 1309 CHESTNUT

Street. if you want goods as cheap as before the war BEST ICE CREAMS at S. C. Wood's, 1702

MATERIAL, BEYOND QUESTION.

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STOWN AND ON CHESTRUT STREET. ALL FLAVORS of Ice Creams and Ices and to order by Morse & Co., 202 and 904 Arch street,

DELICIOUS BREAKFAST TEA.

MITCHELL & FLETCHER.

1204 Chestnut street. EVERY GENTLEMAN WHO WANTS SHIRTS, Gloves, Collars, &c. &c., should buy from RITCHIE, 1309 CHESTNUT Street, and save money. GENTLEMEN'S FINE CALF BOOTS.—If you desire something very superior in the way of a pair of Boots or Gaiters, call on Height the artistic bootmaker. No. FS. Schoth street, next door to the corner of Sixth. He has at all times a large stock to select from of it you prefer, he will make to order. A new stock of Gente' parior slippers just received. Boys' boots and gatters constantly on hand.

GENTLEMEN OF LEISURE WILL CALL AND buy from RITCHIE, 1800 CHES INUT Street, if they

GENTLEMEN OF TASTE PATRONIZE BITCHIE, 1809 CHESTNUT Street.

CHILDREN'S HATS .-

Have you seen them?

How beautiful!

Get your Hats for the little ones at the great hat store of the city, which is und, the Continental Hotel, kept of the RAIRS OAK FORD & SUNS. Ho! FOR THANKSGIVING,—Notice—Persons who contemplate making preparations for a proper celebration of Thanksgiving this month, are invited to meet at No. 824 Chestuntstreet, and get new sults of clothing at Charles Stokes & O. 12 one price obtaing Store, for the purpose of being in a thankful frame of mind at the proper time.

SUPERIOR FRENCH CONFECTIONS, made of pure loaf sugar; Choice French Mixture, put up in neat boxes; Jordan Boasted Almonds, Chocolate Caramels, French Naugat, Cream Chorolate Ban Bons, manufactured by A. L. Vansant, Ninth and Chestaut. Also Hamburg and Sweet Almeria Grapes. COALAT RETAIL AT PORT RICHMOND PRI-

DES-st the Shipping Wharf, foot of Laurel street, Kensington, Gross ton (2,240 lbs.) always delivered, nuless otherwise ordered, J. K. & W. TOMLINSON, "lubricative steam engine packing.—for terms, see 635 arch 81, phila., and 26 dey st., new york.

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Hallowell & 808, 534 Market street,
Bo, S'Clothing, Boys' Clothing,
Boys' Clothing, Boys' Clothing,
Boys' Clothing, Boys' Clothing,
Rollendid assortment, Beduced Prices,
Splendid assortment, Beduced Prices,
Call before purchasing elsewhere.

DEAFWESS, BLINDNESS AND CATARRH.—

1. Issacs, M. D., Professor of the Eye and Ear, treats all diseases appertaining to the above members with the utmost success. Testimonials from the most reliable sources in the city can be seen at his office. No. 19 Pinestrest. The medical faculty are invited to accompany their patients, as he has had no secrets in his practice. Artificial eyes inser ed. No charge made or examination.

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85,000 FEET NORWAY SILLS. At a very low price, in lots of 5,000 feet. no2 im

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WHITE PINE, PANEL PATTERN PLANK.
LARGE AND SUPERIOR STOCK ON HAND.

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PLASTERING LATH. 1666, CEDAR AND OYPRESS SHINGLES,
LONG OBDAR MHINGLES,
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FINE ABSORTMENT, FOR SALE LOW,
No. 1 CEDAR LOGS AND POSTS,
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RED CEDAR, WALNUT AND PINE.
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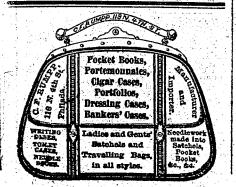
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Below Lomberd,
N. B. - DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELEY,
GUNS, &c.,

REMARKABLY LOW PRICES BALLARD'S SHOPS ALL WARRANTED AND PROPERTIES